



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA:
MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 16, 1858.

What do the People Want?

The National Intelligencer, in reply to this interrogatory, recites a few of the desirable things, which the people want, or should want, at the present time in the history of our government:—

"The people want an end put to its sectional agitation, as well in its causes as its effects. They want a well-regulated national currency."

"They want just and adequate protection awarded to American industry."

"They want a judicious system of internal improvements instead of the present partial and spasmodic legislation of Congress."

"They want the public lands carefully husbanded, if their proceeds cannot be equally distributed."

"They want a remedy applied to the abuses connected with the dispensation of the public patronage—abuses which provoke complaint even from the party which first inaugurated the 'spoils era' in politics."

"They want an economical administration of the Government, as well in the collection as in the disbursement of its revenues."

"They want justice, dignity, and moderation in the conduct of our foreign affairs, whether as regards the great Powers of Europe or the feeble States on our own continent."

"They want no further extension of our Territorial limits."

"They want the Executive power restrained within its ancient restrictions."

"They want the Judiciary, both State and Federal, respected alike for the purity and independence of its decisions."

"They want no more 'delusions and deceptions,' growing out of 'ambitious legislation with respect to the Territories, or other topics of national concern.'"

"They want the Federal Legislature governed more by the felt necessities of the country and less by the exigencies of party."

The Warrenton Flag says, that the address of R. Taylor Scott, esq., at the laying of the corner stone of the Fauquier Female Seminary, was a very interesting and able one.

Mr. Scott portrayed, in glowing and impressive language, the advantages of education—the objects it has already gained over the elements of nature—the mysteries of earth, air and ocean—and the facilities it has acquired for the diffusion of knowledge by the Press—the Railroad—the Steamship and the Telegraph; so that now, almost with the speed of lightning, intelligence can be conveyed to distant lands, and will soon be able to encompass the globe. He then spoke of the vast fields of truth and knowledge yet to be explored, whose resources are to be gathered for the use and benefit of man. He closed with a strong, and I hope, effective appeal to those present, and all the citizens of Warrenton and its vicinity, to sustain the Institution about to be established in their midst; not only as an individual, but as a public benefit, and as one of the great instrumentalities for diffusing light and truth over the world.

The Fredericksburg Recorder says that Fredericksburg has not retrograded since the days of its greatest prosperity—and makes the following remarks about the eastern cities in Virginia, generally:—

"There is not a town or city in the State of Virginia that is not at the present moment suffering more or less from the effects of heavy taxes, the recent panic, or the deficit in the wheat crop. And yet, viewing the matter through the darkest possible medium, they are, in the main, paradoxical as it may seem, enjoying in the present an absolute and unenviable prosperity, while the future looks up with the most cheering and hopeful indications. He is no visionary dreamer who confidently looks forward to the time when his resources are properly developed, that Virginia will become not only the Empire State of the South, but the successful agricultural and commercial rival of the first State in the Union—when her towns will grow into cities, and her cities into commercial emporiums, worthy of the name."

Advices from Great Salt Lake City to the 17th of July, have been received. The army was in good condition, and enjoying comfortable quarters. The city it is stated, had resumed its wonted aspect, nearly all the refugees having returned to their homes and the pursuing of their avocations. An investigation of the condition of the territorial library had confirmed the suspicion that the Mormon leaders falsified when they declared that the books remained undisturbed. A large portion of the law books formerly contained in the library had been dispersed. The Mormons advised the semblance of peace at last prevailed, but their hatred of the Gentile intrusion was manifested in various unpleasant ways.

The subject of the Address delivered by M. Delany Ball, esq., before the Providence Literary Society, on the 11th inst., at Fairfax Court House was, The Spirit of Inquiry.—The Fairfax News says:

"The Address was brilliant, eloquent, witty, practical and in excellent taste. His hits at the fashionable follies and foibles of the age were apt and well directed, and repeatedly 'brought down the house.' The Address was characterized throughout by those graces of oratory for which the eloquent speaker is already justly distinguished, and for one hour he was honored with the closest and most marked attention of his large and appreciative audience."

The cases of yellow fever, at the New York quarantine, seem to be increasing. At a meeting of the Commissioners of Health last week, it was stated that the number of yellow fever cases imported since the 1st instant is very large. It probably exceeds the number imported in 1856, when the disease spread to Fort Hamilton and South Brooklyn; but as yet there have been no cases of epidemic or endemic around the port. A large percentage of the cases sent to the hospital have been cured, and no danger is apprehended under existing regulations.

The Fraser river gold fever is fast subsiding, under the intelligence recently brought that the mines can only be worked a very brief period of the year, and those of Oregon and Washington are beginning to attract renewed attention.

The name of New Caledonia has been changed by the British government, in the bill for the establishment of a colonial government for that Territory, to British Columbia. The first name was given in compliment to the settlers, who were chiefly Scotch. They have adopted the new name in commemoration of the great discoverer of the continent, but distinguish it from the Columbia in the United States by the addition of British.

In consequence of the apprehension of a famine among the miners on Fraser river it is in contemplation by the Hudson's Bay Company to remove the restrictions to the free navigation of that stream. Two American vessels had already had permission accorded to them to ascend it, and it was expected that the navigation would be declared free to all. That step, however, had not been definitely taken at the last accounts.

Senator Trumbull has taken the stump in Illinois, for the "Republican" party. He lately made a speech, which has created considerable attention. The New York Herald says: "His Custom House statistics are very curious and remarkable, and suggestive of an immense bar of spoils and lobby jobs, which have grown up under the fostering care of the spoilsman and lobby jobbers of Congress, until they need a general pruning down."

We notice the recent death of Madame Champagnon at her residence in Paris, at the age of seventy-seven. This lady was the only child of the celebrated Madame Roland, one of the brave women who perished on the scaffold during the French revolution, the commencement of which she hailed with rapture, and the horrors of which she unflinchingly deplored. Her memoirs are among the most interesting of that period.

One of the most curious phenomena of modern times is the extraordinary increase in the consumption of tobacco. The Genie Industrial says that it cannot account for the advance in France, where it has indeed been enormous. For while in 1830 the value of tobacco consumed was about \$13,000,000, in 1840 it had increased to \$19,000,000, in 1850 to \$24,000,000, and in 1857 to nearly \$35,000,000.

The report of the Board of Ordnance officers, who superintended the recent trial of breech-loading carbines at West Point, has just been published. It appears that none of the various arms presented, met the entire approbation of the Board, but that the Burnside model proved the least objectionable.—Mr. Colt seems to have been left entirely in the background.

The Fredericksburg Recorder says:—"In 1850 the whole debt of the corporation was only twenty-two thousand dollars. Eleven thousand of which was due the Virginia Bank and the residue the Farmers' Bank. Now it amounts in round numbers to the insignificant sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars."

A letter from an officer on board the Mississippi, published in the Hong Kong Register, says that it was the intention of Lord Elgin, the English Commander, to push on at once to Peking, and only in that city to negotiate with the Chinese. He has sent down for reinforcements, but the Register has not the least idea where they are to come from.

The success of the Atlantic cable will encourage the establishment of other lines, with more or less submarine wires, to other portions of the globe. Among these is the proposed route from Key West (Fla.) to Havana; thence to Yucatan across to Tehuantepec, and down to Panama, and ultimately to San Francisco.

The million and a half of specie brought by the Star of the West, from California, will be a handsome addition to the reserves of the New York Banks, and more than balance all the shipments of the last two weeks.

The editor of the Fredericksburg News, who is at the White Sulphur Springs, gives, on the whole, a favorable account of that watering place, this season.

The Richmond South says, that so far from the coming year being one of abundance, throughout the country, there will be short crops of nearly all the staple productions.

We have received the September number of Harper's Magazine, from Mr. Geo. E. French. This number is in no respect inferior to its predecessors.

The Union says that "the vexed question of Slavery had little or nothing to do with the result of the recent vote in Kansas."

The Telegraph Rejoicings. In an article on this subject, the N. Y. Post remarks:

"So much nonsense has been written, spoken and telegraphed about the contemplated telegraph celebration, so much affectation and pretension have already taken violent possession of the public ear in its name, that there is good reason now to fear that, when the time for rejoicing actually comes, gratitude will have given place to shame and contempt. Good taste and good sense both point to the propriety of waiting, first, till we get a dispatch across the line; then before making a public demonstration in honor of any particular parties, that we ascertain all to whom public recognition should be made, and in what proportion, leaving no room for jealousy and heart-burnings, more especially of an international character."

The "cable," it appears, is to be brought into the political arena, as Mr. Cyrus W. Field is nominated by an enthusiastic "cableite" through a New York journal, as a candidate for Governor of that State.—Balt. Sun.

South American Revolutions. The instability of the Governments of South America, Brazil excepted, has become proverbial. The arrival of every steamer from the Isthmus brings us news of what is called a revolution in some of the so-called South American Republics. One month it is in Venezuela, the next Peru, and anon Chili, that is disturbed by revolts and revolutions. Governments are made and destroyed during a change of the moon; Presidents and Cabinets are chosen, installed in office, and deposited in such rapid succession that it would seem that the people have nothing else to occupy their time but the making and unmaking of Governments.

Fire Companies. In dignet, for various reasons, all the fire companies of this city have disbanded except 1, 3, 2, and 6. No. 2 have removed their hose-carriage and plug-snatcher from their house at the corner of 12th and Bank, leaving there the engine which belongs to the city. No. 4 was to have held a meeting last evening for the purpose of considering the propriety of disbanding also. Thus, like a helpless ship at the mercy of the waves, our city is left at the mercy of fire, incendiary or otherwise.—Rich. South.

A Lively Time in Court. New York is the place just now, for all attorneys who are learned in the law of libel. Since the conviction of *Albion* Beach, quite a mania has seized upon the city officials, and they seem resolved to give the Courts ample occupation with the trial of libel cases. Frank Leslie, the illustrated newspaper man, has been arrested at the instance of an Alderman, and charged with eight or ten distinct offences. That his prosecutors are in earnest, impelled by a deep hatred and detestation, will be seen from what transpired in Court immediately after the arrest was made. The defendant asked to be allowed to give bail, which was granted, the plaintiff's counsel urging that it should be put at a high figure: the report continues:—

Mr. Graham proceeded to state that they intended to show these English scoundrels that they could not libel and caricature respectable citizens with impunity.

Mr. Leslie suggested that Mr. Graham should be more careful in his use of epithets.

Mr. Graham—Don't speak to me, you scoundrel, or I shall not be responsible for the consequences. These fellows, (alluding to Mr. Leslie and a friend with him) intend to caricature the entire Court. I'll pick the first man I see take out a pencil. Let them meet me on any flat in New York, I'll take the heads off both of them. I'll show them there is no Mr. New Yorkism about me.

Mr. Leslie—We are gentlemen; we are no pugilists, Mr. Graham.

Mr. Graham—You are a G—d—d English thief. I can kick the pair of you.

Justice Osborn—Mr. Graham, you must stop this; I can't allow it.

Mr. Graham—Within the past seventy-two hours, he has sent a shaft to the heart of the only remaining parent I have on earth; and the other night I went down alone past his establishment, intending if I met him on the curb, to whip him like a dog.

Mr. Leslie asked if the Court intended to allow such proceedings to continue. They were gentlemen and not blackguards.

Alderman Reed—If they are gentlemen, he has sailed under an alias for the past five years.

Mr. Leslie—That is not true.

Justice Osborn—Gentlemen, you must stop this.

Mr. Graham—The only question is, are two gentlemen to be continually libelled by these English transients? They contaminate the air. If I stay in the room much longer I shall suffocate. See the mean looking English thieves!

This style of conversation continued some time longer, but did not lead to any breach of order.

Now, that we call "spies" for a Court-room, and coming from a man profiting for a libel. Mr. Graham is a jewel, and Leslie as meek as Moses. As for the presiding justice, we are at a loss for suitable words to characterize him.—Rich. South.

The Potomac Falls. Some days since a small company of us visited the Great Falls of Potomac, and were particularly pleased with the romantic appearance of the scenery.

Although the Falls are far beneath the rugged and difficultly encountered in reaching these mighty rocks and rapids, were soon forgotten in contemplation. Here the lover of nature finds abundant substance to dwell upon; the artist finds a picture; and the poet's muse is awakened by the contrast.

While standing upon one of these towering rocks, looking at the vast piles and confused masses hemming in the river, and the furious element striving to reach a lower level, one cannot help thinking of the power of Him who holds them in his grasp.

Although the Falls are far beneath Niagara in magnificence, yet it is the conclusion of many, that a view of the former is most satisfactory. For here we may be examined with admiration; but Niagara strikes a person dumb with astonishment.

The tendency of our citizens is mostly to leave the sights of our own country, and hunt those of distant parts; but if they knew it, our country has as great a natural curiosity as any other in the State, and few in the United States can boast of a greater one.

Our citizens, after which we will be ready to compare it with others. Still we frequently meet with those who have lived within a few miles of the Potomac Falls until their locks have become silvery with the touch of age—wholly unimpaired of them.—Rich. South.

Spotylvania and Stafford. Spotylvania—Iron ore in considerable quantity in the Northwestern part of the county. Three furnaces and two forges gone down. The quality of the metal was so good as to induce a contract with the General Government for shell-bullets. Gold found in great quantity at one time—many companies have been engaged in mining, several are now profitably engaged. A white freestone of fine quality is found near Frederick. The purchase of three thousand dollars has been made for the purpose of the purchase, if we remember aright, were opened in 1846, just ten years before the Colonel was run as the Republican candidate for President of the United States.—N. Y. Express.

Senator Douglas and his Associates. The St. Louis "Democrat," the Black Republican organ of Missouri, takes with a great deal of dudgeon Judge Douglas's late rejoicing over the defeat of F. P. Blair, Jr. Judge Douglas is stigmatized by some Southern papers as an Abolitionist and Black Republican, as one who has betrayed the Democratic Party, and become false to his former principles, while the Black Republicans denounce the Senator as a slavery extensionist and slavery propagandist.

The Charleston (S. C.) "Mercury" makes him "an enemy and party to the South;" and the "South" assail him with designs "to drive Blair out of the Territory;" while the St. Louis "Democrat" charges him with having betrayed the Democratic Party, and become false to his former principles, while the Black Republicans denounce the Senator as a slavery extensionist and slavery propagandist.

The citizens of Martinsburg, Va., and its vicinity, had a cruel hoax played upon them on Thursday last. Some wag had prepared what purported to be the message from Queen Victoria to President Buchanan, and having the same neatly printed, sent a number of youngsters through the town to dispose of them, which was done at a rapid rate and at a good price. In a short time the excitement was up to fever heat, the court was adjourned unceremoniously, bells were rung, cannon fired, and the whole population met in the Court house Square to celebrate the achievement of this great scientific victory. A number of speeches were delivered by the lawyers, who were thus suddenly called from their dissertations upon Coke and Blackstone to take part in the celebration. The firing of the guns soon aroused the staid people in the rural neighborhood, who began to pour into the town; and the day was spent in shouting, speaking, firing, and—perhaps—drinking. It was not until all were well nigh exhausted with their ebullitions of joy that the discovery was made that they had been hoaxed!—Baltimore Exchange.

Coal Burn on Fire. SOMETHING OF A VOLCANO.—A little before 12 o'clock, on Tuesday night, an alarm of fire was raised in Centre Wheeling. It was from the coal mine belonging to the Belmont Rolling Mill, which extends into the hill back of Hamilton & Clark's foundry. The bank caught fire, we did not learn how, and burned with great rapidity. A short distance from the mouth of the bank a pit is sunk to admit air. Out of this there comes a flame, rising higher and higher into the air. Since one o'clock yesterday morning, up to this writing, there have been two large streams of water constantly pouring upon the fire, with no success at extinguishing it.—Wheeling Intelligencer, 12th.

Loudoun County Items. THE LOUDOUN AGRICULTURAL FAIR.—At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Loudoun Agricultural Society, held in December, on Tuesday last, it was decided to change the day of holding the Fair to the 21st and 22nd of September. The Committee was induced to make the change because the Valley Fair at Winchester, and the State Fair of Maryland, had decided upon holding their Fairs at the same time, and the Circuit Court for the county of Loudoun, at that time. These causes were sufficient to induce a change. We hope our fellow-citizens will make the necessary effort to get up a Fair creditable to this large and wealthy county.

THE COMMITTEE TO SOLICIT SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE MERCER MONUMENT have been enlarged so as to consist of the following named gentlemen. They are requested to use earnest effort to secure a Monument worthy of the man who has done so much to increase the material prosperity of the county of Loudoun, and whose warm support of all the great benevolent objects that have been originated in the last half century, will be remembered and commemorated as a true patriot and friend of his race:—

Asa Rogers, Edward Hammett, C. B. Tebbe, C. B. Ball, E. C. Brown, M. B. Hutchison, John I. Coburn, Wm. Fulton, F. E. Shreve, C. W. Paxson, Emanuel Walms, John George, Jr., John Grubb, Sr., John Leslie, James R. Simpson, Joseph Nichols, Mahlon Thomas, Dr. F. T. Grady, James Grubb, John M. Harrison, Sanford I. Ramsey, Silas Hutchinson, Wm. N. Berkeley, James S. Otten, Norborne Berkeley, James C. Janney, R. L. Wright, D. F. Taylor, J. B. White, Wm. Williams, Thomas Phillips, Noble S. Braden, A. M. Vandewater, Thos. J. Cost, Andrew Seitz, J. C. Benton, Towns- end Frasier, Washington Hamner, John Nichols, George D. Smith, Joshua Hatcher, Fenton M. Henderson, Thomas Pregraves, John Moore, Benj. Bridges, Jr., E. H. Janney, H. S. Thompson, Thomas L. Elzey, Joseph Worthington, John Cumpher, of Brington, Samuel Purcell, M. C. Shumate, Jonas P. Schooley, James Whaler, Asa Jackson, R. B. Bentley, Hamilton Rogers, Wm. Moss, E. K. Pared, Samuel J. Kabb, J. P. H. Green, Capt. Abel, Joseph Hall, S. C. Lockett, Dr. A. M. Bond, William S. Greenlee, Joseph M. Chandler, Matthew P. Lee, John A. C. Potts, Neer, James C. Janney, Ludwell Lockett, Joseph G. Gray, and J. Beverley Oden.

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THE QUARTERLY MEETING of the Society of Friends commenced at the Goose Creek Meeting House, on to-morrow (Saturday), and will last for several days. They are very largely attended.—Leesburg Washingtonian.

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Narrow Escape.—CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.—Two physicians, Dr. B. and Dr. W., entered the Metropolitan Bath-house, on Spotswood, above Fourth street, at a late hour a night or two ago, and asked for a double bath, which was given them. One of the two, Dr. W., disappeared immediately, and during a merry conversation, leaped laughing into the tub, inhaling a quantity of water, which strangled him at once. He threw up his hands and made every effort to regain his suspended breath, but to no purpose. He suffered immensely, and struggled until he grew livid. His face became livid, and Dr. B., paralyzed by terror, stood by his side and waited for the moment that death would come to his friend's relief.

Suddenly a thought struck Dr. B., and reason began to act. He knew that men had been saved from choking by blows upon the back, and in a moment he struck his companion, who, with protruding eyes and livid face, was undergoing all the horrors of strangulation, a heavy blow between the shoulders.

Dr. W. threw up the water, and was relieved at once; but so exhausted was he by the terrible scene through which he had passed, that he sank helpless in the tub, and would have perished but for Dr. B., who lifted him up in his arms and supported him until his strength was partially restored.

It was a narrow escape, indeed. Had Dr. W. remained ten seconds longer in his then condition, he would have been beyond the power of hope or restoration. Had he died there by strangulation, in what a position would his demise have placed Dr. B., who had insisted at the "Metropolitan" upon a double bath, and urged his friend, who appeared indifferent to the matter, before the negroes, to yield to his proposition! No news would have been made by the horrid mode of dying, and the first known of the casualty would have been the announcement of Dr. B. that Dr. W. was dead.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Spurgeon, the Preacher. As Spurgeon, the celebrated English divine, whose preaching has created such an excitement in Great Britain, is about to visit this country, a short description of him will not be uninteresting. Mr. Field, the London correspondent of the New York Evangelist, who heard him preach lately, to an audience of eight or ten thousand persons, in Musical Hall in that city, says:

"Never had a speaker a more unpromising exterior than Mr. Spurgeon. He is very short and very fat, and altogether what we should call *chubby*, and as he goes waddling up the stairs he looks more like an overgrown boy than a fully developed man.—Nor does his countenance betoken superior intellect. His forehead is low, and his upper lip is so short that it shows his teeth, which gives his mouth the appearance of a simper or a grin. Surely, I thought, eloquence cannot come out of such a mouth as that."

But the impression which a physiognomist might form from these dull and heavy features is dispelled as soon as he begins to speak. Then his countenance lights up with animation. His voice is full and clear, filling every ear with melodious sound."

He speaks extemporaneously, without a note, and his singular eloquence and simplicity of language are most remarkable, and have given him greater notoriety than any clergyman in England. So great are the crowds that flock to hear him that a small fee is charged for admission, in order to prevent confusion and disorder. He speaks twice a week, and yet enjoys excellent health.

Hungarian Grass. This grass is exciting considerable attention, just now, among the farmers of Middle Tennessee, as a substitute for oats. A few seeds were imported by an exiled Hungarian some four or five years ago, to Iowa, and many of the farmers of that State have fully experimented with it. From the accounts that we have seen, it has succeeded admirably—its yield being from three to six tons to the acre, and furnishing the very best and most nutritious of hay. We have also seen letters from several gentlemen in Middle Tennessee, who have planted it this year, and a decided success in its growth.

Eight weeks ago, and only six weeks from the time it was sown, it has reached out generally, is four or five and a half feet high, and I suppose in two or three weeks more, will be fully matured, and in my opinion, will make a larger yield than any timothy I have ever seen grown in the State, and fully equal to timothy in quality. I will send you a specimen of this grass.—N. Y. Tribune.

An Unfortunate Man of Science. Boston rejoices in an "Admirable Criticism" of science, named Dr. C. T. Jackson.—This gentleman is one of the most fortunate and unfortunates of men. He is fortunate in having suggested every scientific and mechanical improvement and invention which has been perfected in the last quarter of a century, and he is unfortunate in never getting the credit of it. It is no matter in what department of science or art a discovery has been made, Dr. Jackson knew it long before the inventor, and communicated the idea to the person who claims the credit of having invented it. When Dr. Morton claimed the discovery of the qualities of ether, as an agent for preventing pain during surgical operations, Dr. Jackson instantly charged Morton with stealing all Jackson's ideas.

When Professor Morse announced the practical operation of the magnetic telegraph, after ten years of weary thought and anxiety, Dr. Jackson instantly started up as the originator and suggester of that very system.—Now that Morse's name is brought into greater prominence by the crowding act of laying the submarine cable, Jackson steps forward and claims all the credit to himself. Dr. Jackson is, no doubt, a very wonderful man in his own estimation; but if he carries so much science in his head that he is able to anticipate all the inventions of time, the inquiry suggests itself, why does he not make the public the recipient of his knowledge, and so get himself the honor of the discovery?—Phila. Ledger.

From Washington. WASHINGTON, August 13.—Preparations are being made for the organization of an efficient military staff for Washington and Oregon Territories, preliminary to the contemplated operations against the hostile Indians of that region,